2005 Annual Alberta Labour Market Review

Employment

Economic Regions

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Industries

Occupations

Wages

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Education

Hours Worked

Demographics

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EMPLOYMENT

2005 - A BANNER YEAR FOR CREATION OF FULL-TIME JOBS IN ALBERTA

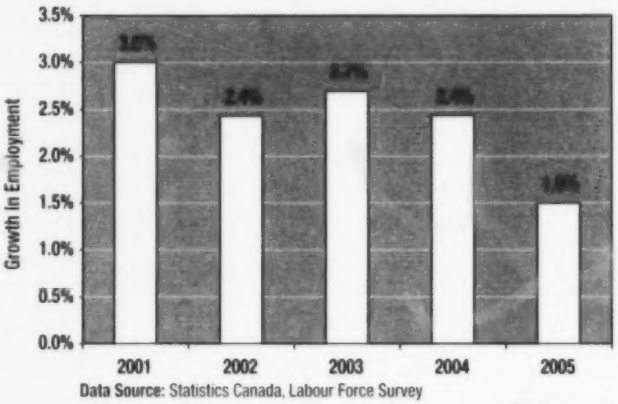
Albertans created 37,419 full-time jobs in 2005 while part-time positions fell by 10,444, for a net increase of 26,975 jobs. *(Figure 1 - Alberta Annual Average Growth in Employment, 2001 - 2005)*

There were 1,784,431 Albertans employed in 2005. For the country as a whole, 16,169,722 Canadians were employed, an increase of 222,739, or 1.4% from 2004.

Between 2001 and 2005, the number of people employed in Alberta grew from 1,630,898 to 1,784,431. This represents an increase in employment of 153,533 for the province over the last five years. *(Figure 2 - Alberta Annual Average Employment, 2001 - 2005)*

Since 1976, Alberta has had the highest employment rate[1] of all Canadian provinces. Alberta's 2005 rate of 69.8% exceeded the national rate of 62.7%. *(Figure 3 - Alberta and Canada Employment Rates, 2001 - 2005)*

Alberta Annual Average Growth In Employment, 2001 - 2005



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 1

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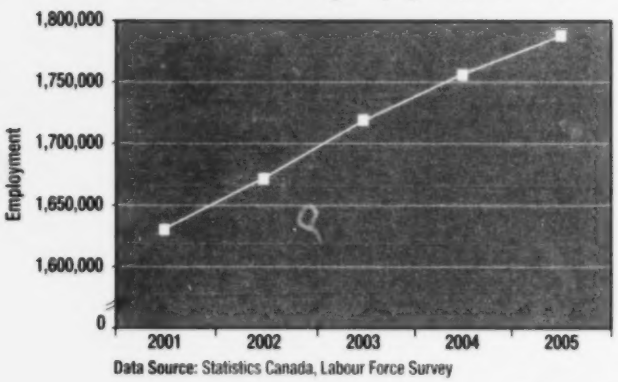

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Alberta and Canada Employment Rates, 2001 - 2005

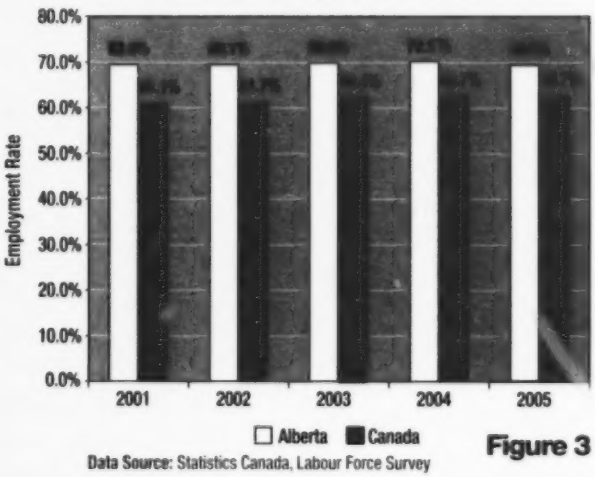

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Figure 3

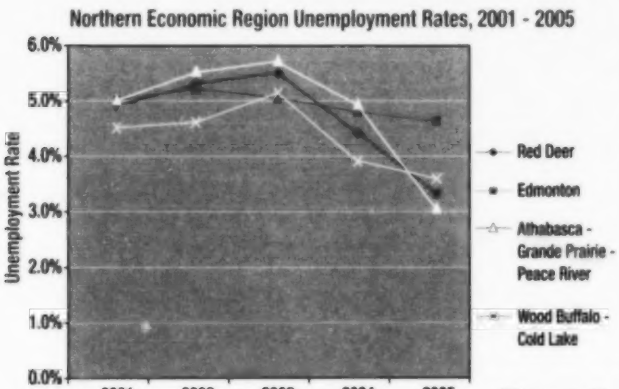
[1] The employment rate measures the number of people employed out of the working age population (15+ years).

ECONOMIC REGIONS

ATHABASCA - GRANDE PRAIRIE - PEACE RIVER REGION RECORDS LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE PROVINCE

Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River region had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.1% in 2005. Camrose - Drumheller had the second lowest unemployment rate at 3.2%. In the Edmonton region, the unemployment rate was 4.5% and in the Calgary region, it was 3.9%. The Banff - Jasper - Rocky Mountain House region's unemployment rate was suppressed due to insufficient data.

The Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River region saw the largest decrease in its unemployment rate from 4.9% in 2004 to 3.1% in 2005. *(Figures 4 and 5 - Economic Region Unemployment Rates, 2001 - 2005)*



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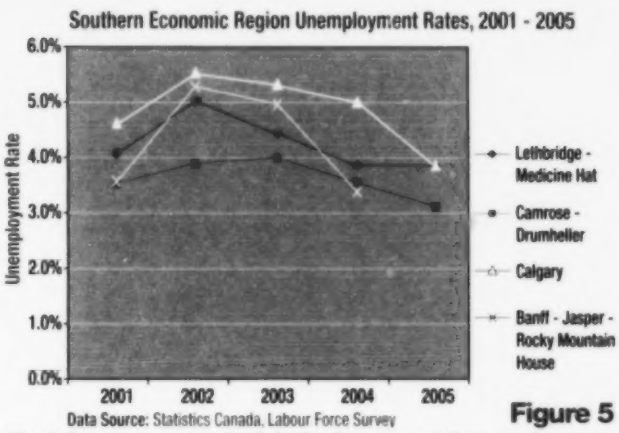
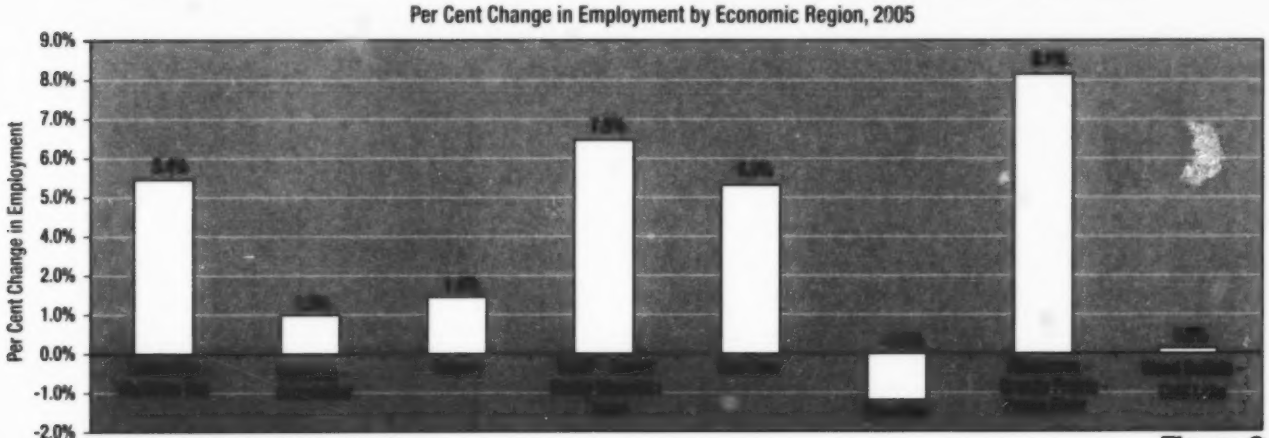


Figure 5

The Edmonton region had the highest regional unemployment rate at 4.5% in 2005, which decreased 0.3 percentage points from 4.8% in 2004.

The region with the largest percentage increase in employment was the Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River region where employment grew by 9,400 people, or 8.1%, in 2005. Banff - Jasper - Rocky Mountain House region had the second highest per cent increase in employment for 2005 at 7.5%, or 3,400.

In contrast, the Edmonton region experienced the largest percentage decline in employment, by 1.3%. Given the high earning possibilities within the oil and gas industry, some family members may have chosen not to work. *(Figures 6 - Per Cent Change in Employment by Economic Region, 2005)*



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EMPLOYMENT

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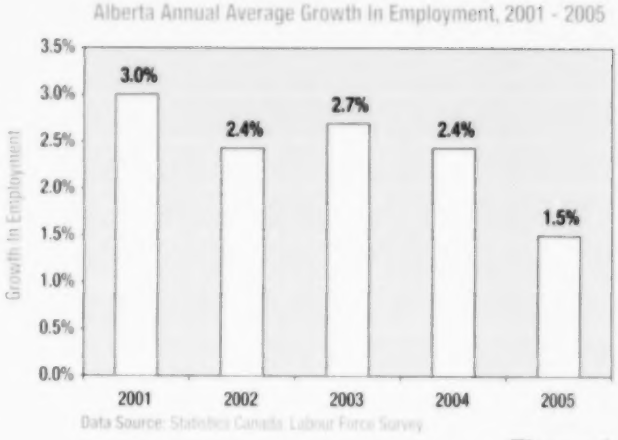

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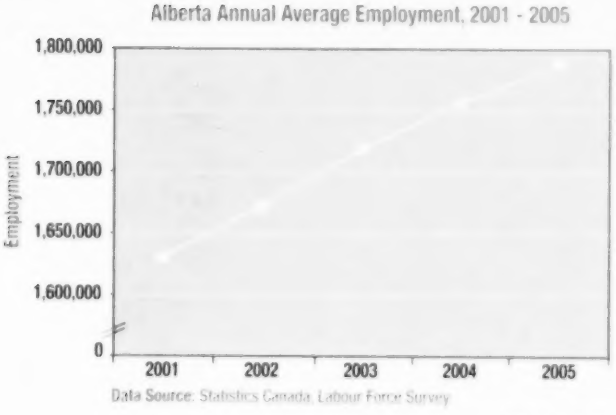

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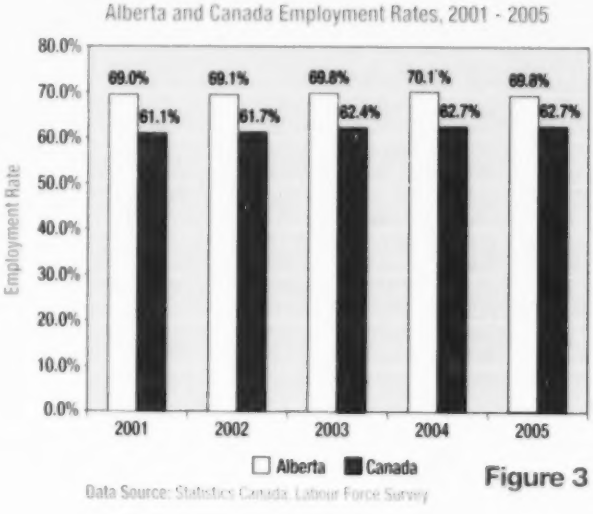

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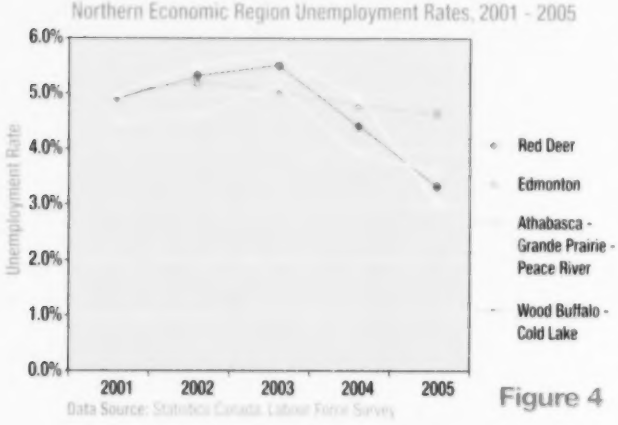

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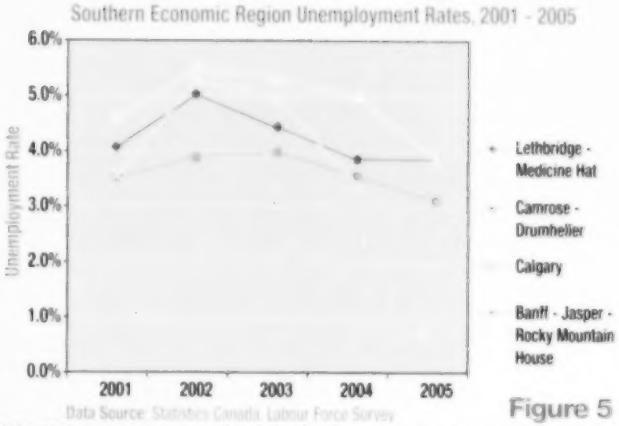

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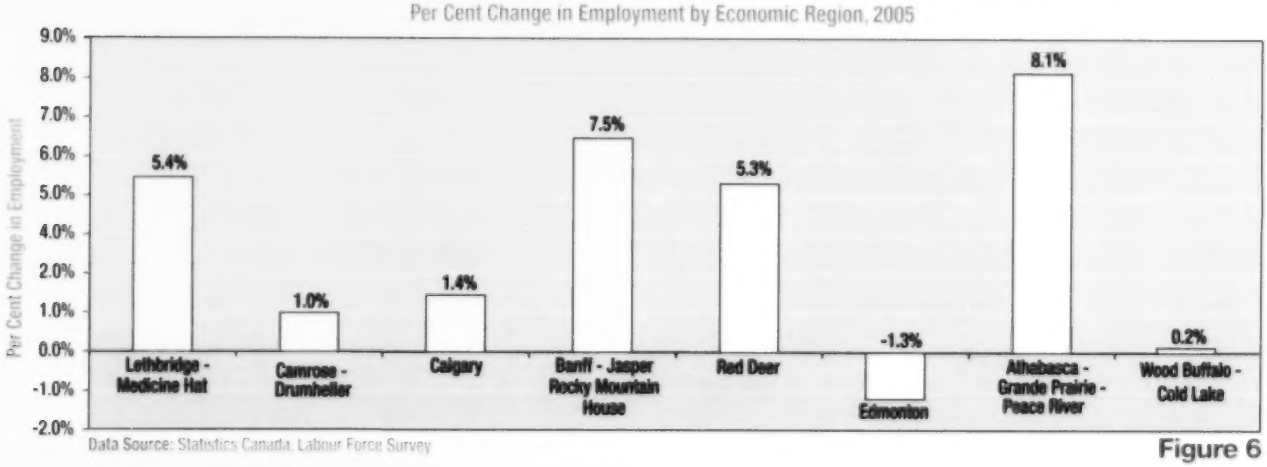
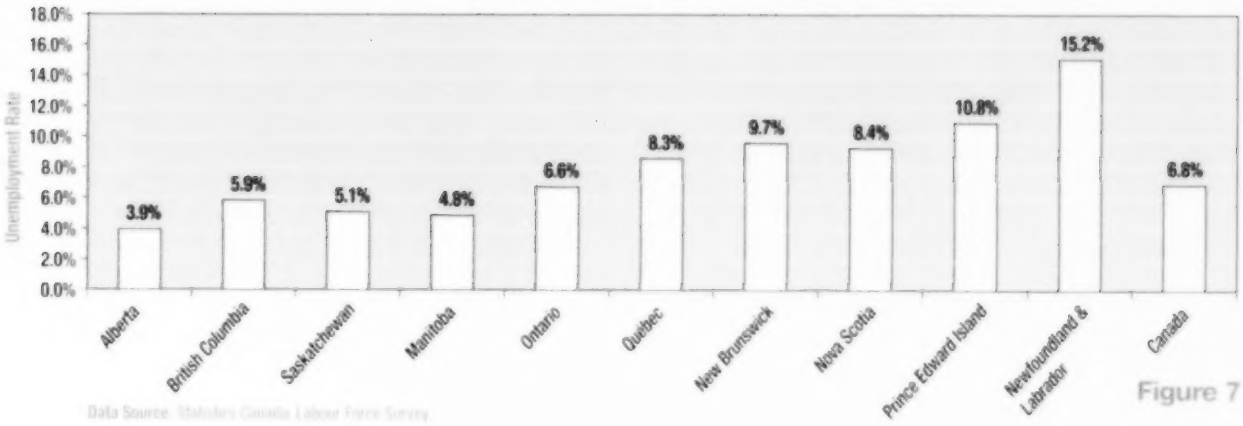


Figure 6

UNEMPLOYMENT

Provincial and National Unemployment Rates, 2005



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 7

Alberta experienced the lowest unemployment rate[1] among all the provinces for the second year in a row. Alberta's rate of 3.9% was followed by Manitoba's 4.8% and Saskatchewan's 5.1%. *(Figure 8 - Alberta and Canada Unemployment Rates, 2001 - 2005)*

Alberta and Canada Unemployment Rates, 2001 - 2005

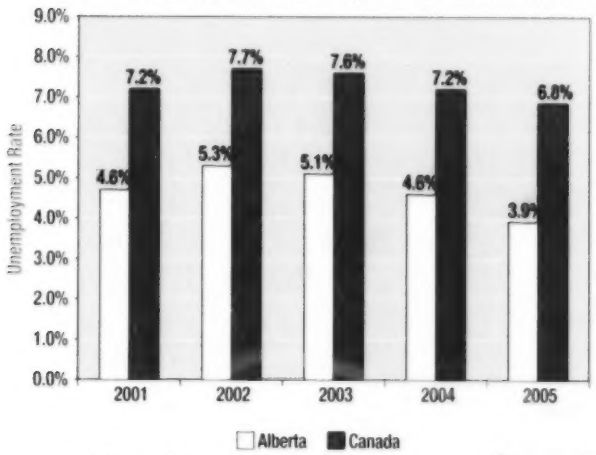


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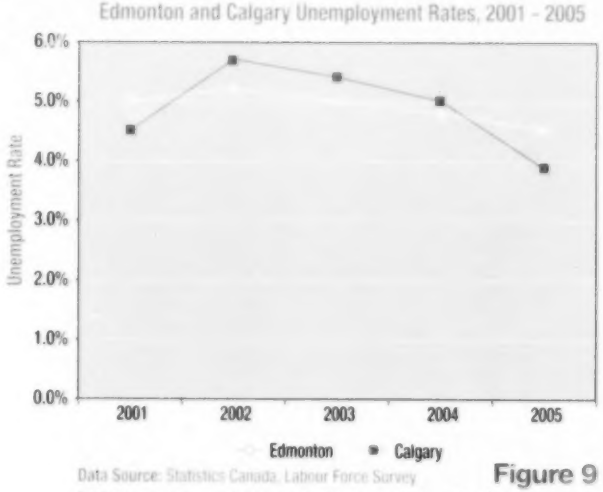
Figure 8

Comparing Alberta's two largest Census Metropolitan Areas, Edmonton had an unemployment rate of 4.5% and Calgary's was 3.9%. Calgary had a decrease of 1.1 percentage points from its 2004 rate and Edmonton had a decrease of 0.3 percentage points. *(Figure 9 - Edmonton and Calgary Unemployment Rates, 2001 - 2005)*

Edmonton and Calgary Unemployment Rates, 2001 - 2005



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Note: The unemployment rates are for the Census Metropolitan Area, which is different than the Economic Region

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MIGRATION

Alberta gained 22,475 people through migration in 2004. Of those moving to Alberta, 10,993 resulted from interprovincial migration and 11,482 came from international migration, or immigration. Immigration accounted for 51.1% of Alberta's total net migration and 48.9% was the result of interprovincial migration. *(Figure 10 - Alberta Interprovincial Migration, 2000 - 2004)*

During the period of 2000 to 2004, Alberta recorded its lowest net interprovincial migration level in 2003, at 10,254.

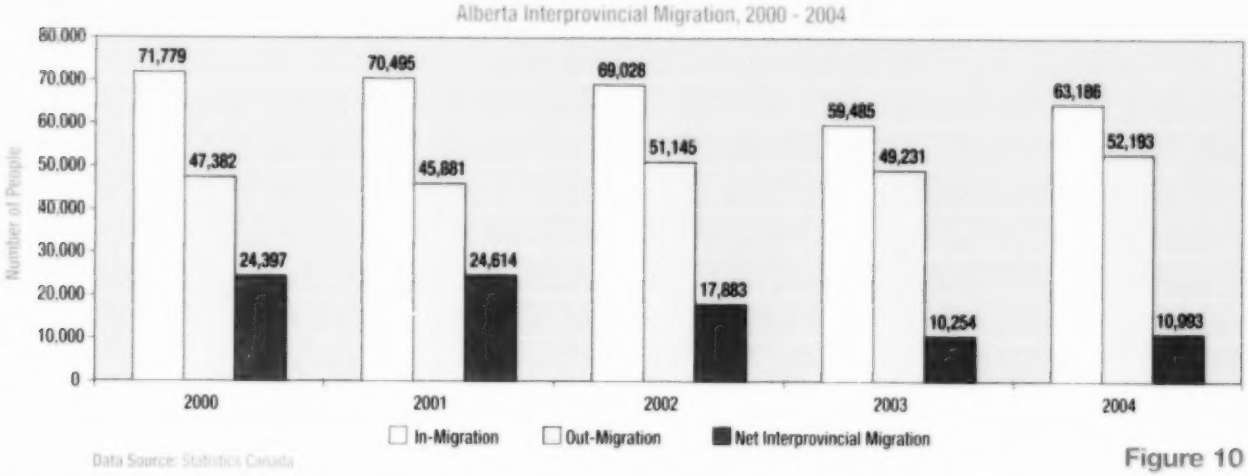


Figure 10

The graph below shows the relative levels of net immigration and net interprovincial migration. In the last two years, international migration levels were almost equal to interprovincial migration levels. The decreasing interprovincial migration levels may indicate that Alberta has tapped most of its labour sources throughout Canada. In addition, it may also reflect that the competition for workers is increasing nationally. *(Figure 11 - Alberta Migration 2000 - 2004)*

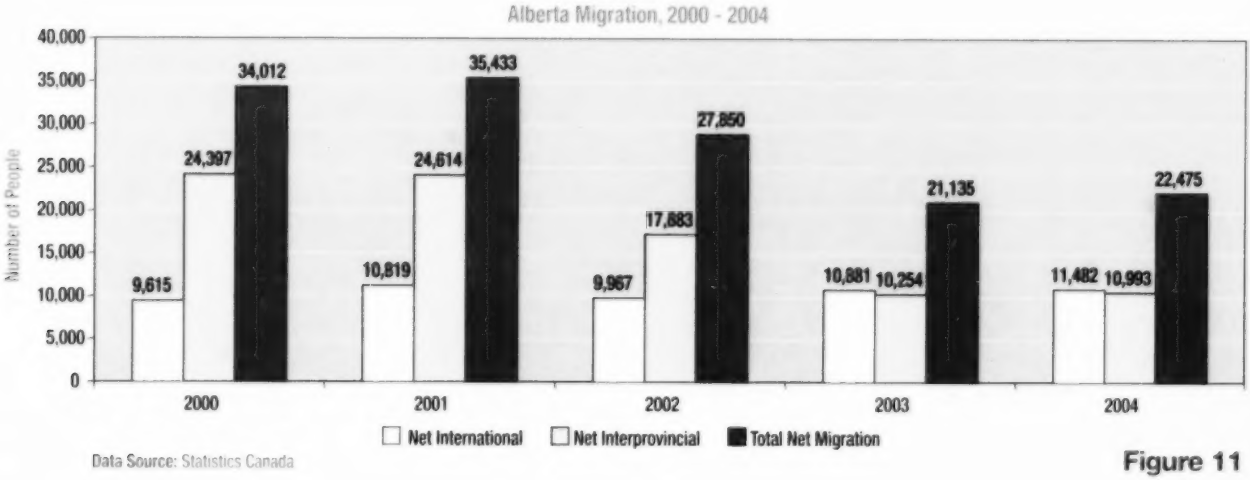
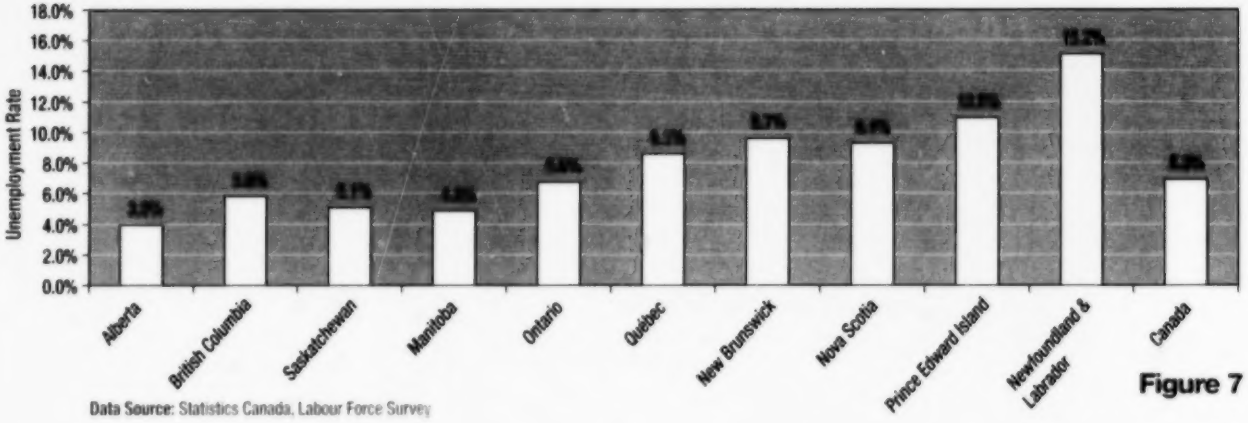


Figure 11

UNEMPLOYMENT

ALBERTA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINS THE LOWEST IN THE COUNTRY

Provincial and National Unemployment Rates, 2005



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Alberta experienced the lowest unemployment rate[2] among all the provinces for the second year in a row. Alberta's rate of 3.9% was followed by Manitoba's 4.8% and Saskatchewan's 5.1%. *(Figure 8 - Alberta and Canada Unemployment Rates, 2001 - 2005)*

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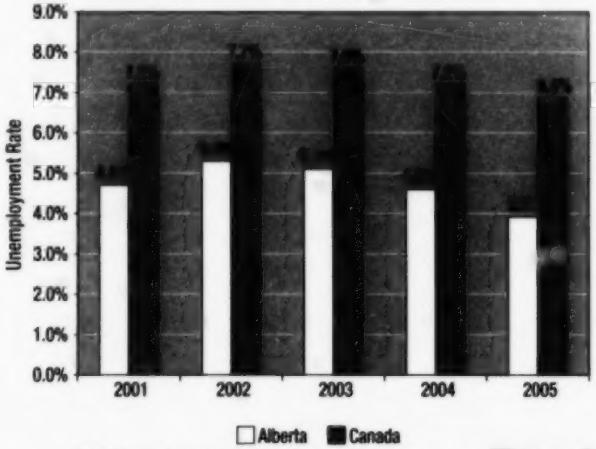

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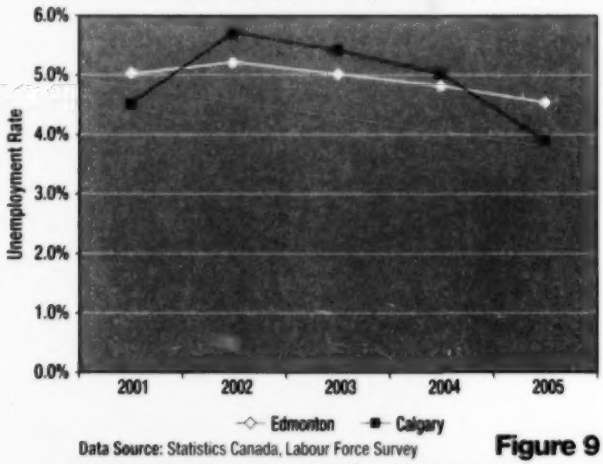

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MIGRATION

IMMIGRANTS MAKE UP THE LARGEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE MOVING TO ALBERTA

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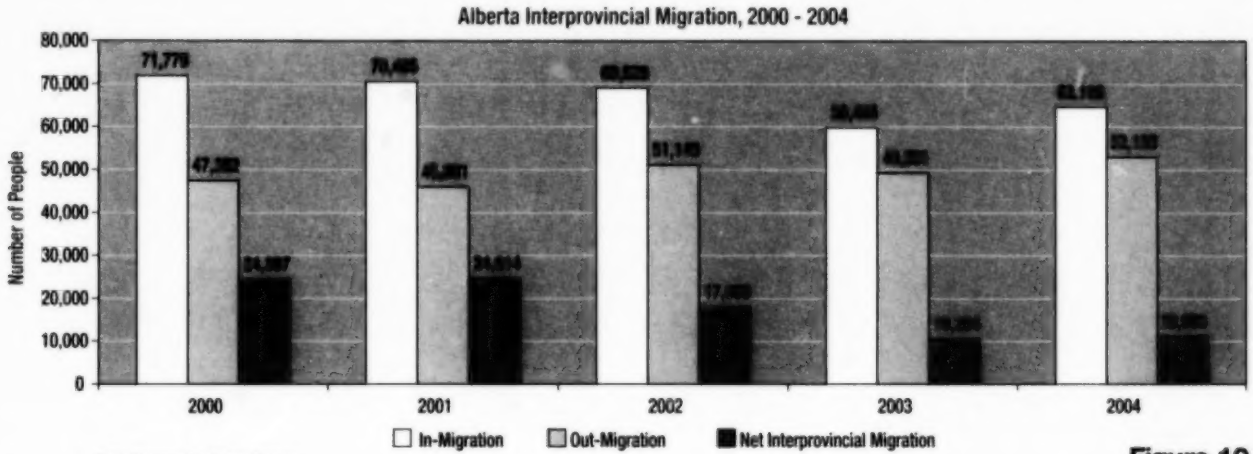

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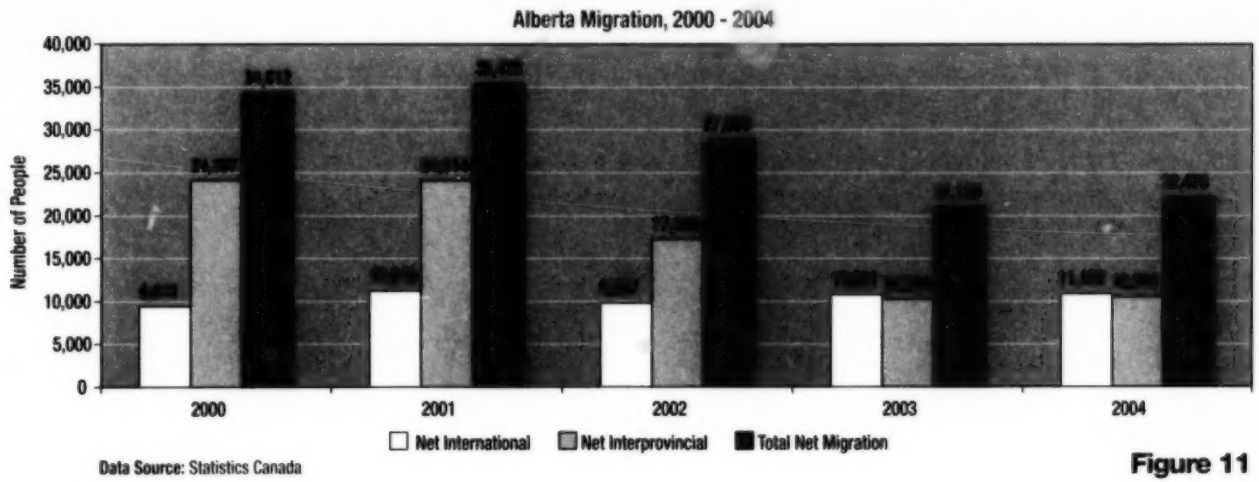


Data Source: Statistics Canada

Figure 11

INDUSTRIES

MINING, OIL AND GAS EXTRACTION INDUSTRY BOOM IN 2005

The Services-Producing industries in Alberta had more job growth than the Goods-Producing industries. The former increased by 36,253 jobs while the latter decreased by 9,278 jobs.

The following industries led the way in employment gains: Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction, 15,753; Educational Services, 11,962; and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, 10,625.

The top three industries with the largest per cent change in employment from 2004 to 2005 were: Mining, Oil and Gas, 14.7%; Education Services, 11.0%; Transportation and Warehousing, 9.7%.

The table below reports the number employed, unemployment rates and the change in employment by industry groups. The industry groups are sorted in descending order by 2005 employment. *(Figure 12 - Alberta Industry Labour Force Statistics, 2005)*

Alberta Industry Labour Force Statistics, 2005

INDUSTRY GROUP	2005 EMPLOYMENT	CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT	PER CENT CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Retail Trade	211,895	5262	2.5%	3.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	172,479	9489	5.8%	1.6%
Construction	159,695	(847)	-0.5%	4.4%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	131,091	10625	8.8%	2.3%
Manufacturing	130,930	(13411)	-9.3%	2.4%
Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction	122,583	15753	14.7%	2.7%
Educational Services	120,384	11962	11.0%	2.4%
Accommodation and Food Services	108,729	(15728)	-12.6%	5.6%
Transportation and Warehousing	106,859	9421	9.7%	2.5%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	95,211	4496	5.0%	1.8%
Other Services	82,577	1113	1.4%	2.3%
Information, Culture and Recreation	71,143	(371)	-0.5%	3.9%
Public Administration	67,824	(1551)	-2.2%	1.7%
Wholesale Trade	66,505	3107	4.9%	2.6%
Business, Building and Other Support Services	62,624	(1571)	-2.4%	4.8%
Agriculture	56,208	(9999)	-15.1%	1.0%
Utilities	13,236	(385)	-2.8%	3.0%
Forestry and Logging with Support Activities	4,426	(361)	-7.5%	5.8%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 12

OCCUPATIONS

MORE JOBS IN NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES AND RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Occupations in Alberta with the largest increases in employment were: Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations, 9,024; Health Occupations, 8,920; and Business, Finance and Administrative Occupations, 7,700.

Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations include chemical and petroleum engineers, whose demand is likely driven by strong oil and gas activities.

A possible explanation for the employment increase in the Business, Finance and Administrative occupational group was the number of new call centres opening in Alberta. *(Figure 13 - Alberta Labour Force Statistics by Major Occupational Groups, 2005)*

Alberta Labour Force Statistics by Major Occupational Groups, 2005

OCCUPATIONAL GROUP	2005 EMPLOYMENT	CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT	PER CENT CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Sales & Service Occupations	415,328	(8306)	-2.0%	4.2%
Business, Finance & Administrative Occupations	317,725	7700	2.5%	2.2%
Trades, Transportation & Equipment Operators & Related Occupations	310,446	(1964)	-0.6%	4.1%
Management Occupations	148,210	2502	1.7%	1.7%
Natural & Applied Sciences & Related Occupations	135,825	9024	7.1%	1.6%
Occupations in Social Science, Education, Government Service & Religion	125,829	5861	4.9%	2.0%
Occupations Unique to Primary Industry	113,054	(4788)	-4.1%	3.0%
Health Occupations	100,414	8920	9.7%	1.1%
Occupations Unique to Processing, Manufacturing & Utilities	69,791	429	0.6%	2.8%
Occupations in Art, Culture, Recreation & Sport	47,809	7598	18.9%	1.9%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 13

WAGES

ALBERTA WAGES CLIMB STEADILY

According to the *2005 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey*, the overall average Alberta wage increased from $19.68 per hour in 2003 to $21.39 per hour in 2005, which represents an 8.7% increase.

Over 6,700 Alberta employers participated in the survey, covering close to 480 different occupations and representing over 303,000 full-time and part-time employees. The wage and salary information is available by industry, geographic location and skill level.

Occupational groups, such as carpenters, call centre agents, database analysts and occupational therapists experienced the largest wage increases from 2003 to 2005 for starting wages and wages after three years. The strong labour market has created upward pressure on wages across a variety of occupations and industries. *(Figure 14 - Top 10 Occupations by Wage Growth, 2003 - 2005)*

For more information, please visit the *2005 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey* website listed on the back cover of this publication.

Top 10 Occupations by Wage Growth, 2003 - 2005

STARTING WAGE		AFTER 3 YEARS WAGE	
OCCUPATIONAL GROUP	GROWTH	OCCUPATIONAL GROUP	GROWTH
Occupational Therapists	98.7%	Other Medical Technologists and Technicians (Except Dental Health)	109.5%
Carpenters	90.7%	Carpenters	80.4%
Data Administrators	81.9%	Professional Occupations in Business Services to Management	74.6%
Coaches	80.0%	Social Policy Researchers, Consultants and Program Officers	62.1%
Other Medical Technologists and Technicians (Except Dental Health)	76.8%	Occupational Therapists	55.1%
Database Analysts and Data Administrators	67.4%	Chemical Technologists and Technicians	51.9%
Computer Engineers (Except Software Engineers)	60.4%	Call Centre Agents	48.3%
Civil Engineers	54.3%	Database Analysts	48.0%
Audio and Video Recording Technicians	54.2%	Personnel and Recruitment Officers	44.0%
Lawyers and Quebec Notaries	52.6%	Real Estate Agents and Salespersons	43.1%

Data Source: 2003 and 2005 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

Note: Occupational groups with all reliability codes were used for this comparison

Figure 14

SKILL SHORTAGES

RECRUITMENT CHALLENGES CONTINUE

The *2005 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey* also asked employers about hiring difficulties and job vacancies to help gauge the labour market situation.

The percentage of employers who indicated a hiring difficulty in one or more occupational groups increased from 51.5% in 2003 to 56.3% in 2005. Over the same period, the percentage of employers that had at least one position unfilled for over four months also increased from 21.0% to 28.2%.

The top vacancy rate[3] of 17.7% was in the category of other professional occupations in physical sciences. This group includes metallurgists, soil scientists and physical science occupations, which are not elsewhere classified.

The two occupational groups under the National Occupational Classification (NOC) that remained on the top 10 Alberta vacancy list from 2003 to 2005 were: food service supervisors and cooks. In seven of the eight economic regions, cooks appeared in the top 10 list. The two occupational groups that appeared in the top 10 list of six regions were food and beverage servers and food counter attendants, kitchen helpers and related occupations. *(Figure 15 - Top 10 Alberta Job Vacancy Rates, 2005)*

Top 10 Alberta Job Vacancy Rates, 2005

OCCUPATIONAL GROUP	ESTIMATED JOB VACANCY RATE	OVERALL AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE	OVERALL AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY
Other Professional Occupations in Physical Sciences	17.70%	$40.43	$79,130
Structural Metal and Platework Fabricators and Fitters	13.20%	$21.37	$44,806
Oil and Gas Drilling, Servicing and Related Labourers	9.70%	$16.63	$46,990
Food Service Supervisors	9.40%	$10.01	$16,311
Glaziers	8.80%	$16.17	$33,889
Cooks	8.60%	$10.39	$19,305
Maîtres d'hôtel and Hosts/Hostesses	8.30%	$7.43	$9,115
Cashiers	7.80%	$10.99	$18,761
Automotive Service Technicians, Truck Mechanics and Mechanical Repairers	7.80%	$22.47	$48,687
Other Medical Technologists and Technicians (Except Dental Health)	7.70%	$32.69	$61,047

Data Source: 2005 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey
Note: This list was based on all valid NOCs with reliability code "A" (highest reliability code).

Figure 15

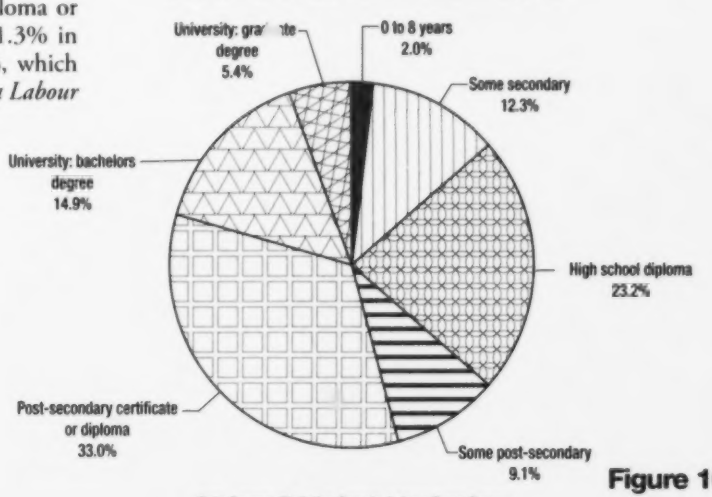
[3]The vacancy rate is the total number of job vacancies unfilled for four months or longer divided by the sum of all job vacancies and the number employed.

EDUCATION

MORE ALBERTANS IN THE WORKFORCE HAVE A POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

In 2005, 62.4% of Albertans in the labour force had either a university degree, a post secondary certificate or diploma or some post secondary education, an increase from 61.3% in 2004. For Canada, the 2005 percentage was 64.7%, which was up from 64.3% the year prior. *(Figure 16 - Alberta Labour Force Educational Attainment, 2005)*

Alberta Labour Force Educational Attainment, 2005


University: gra te degree 5.4%
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Some secondary 12.3%
University: bachelors degree 14.9%
High school diploma 23.2%
Post-secondary certificate or diploma 33.0%
Some post-secondary 9.1%

Figure 16

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

HOURS WORKED

ALBERTANS WORK MORE HOURS THAN MOST CANADIANS

On average in 2005, Alberta's full-time and part-time employees worked the second highest usual number of hours per week at their main job, at 38.1 hours. Usual hours were the number of hours usually worked in a typical week, regardless of whether they were paid. Newfoundland had the highest usual number of hours worked at 38.4 hours. Both were over Canada's average usual hours worked, at 36.5. *(Figure 17 - Alberta Average Usual Hours Worked at Main Job, 2005)*

Alberta Average Usual Hours Worked at Main Job, 2005

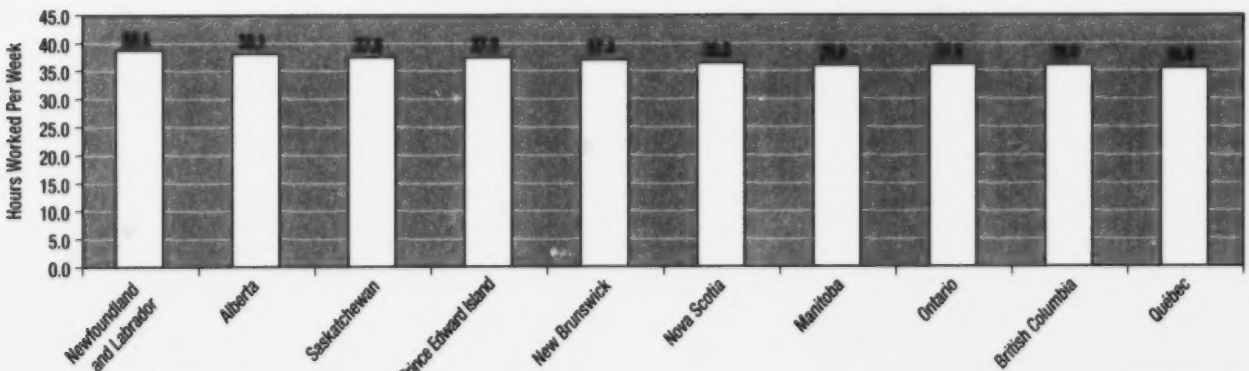

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Figure 17

EDUCATION

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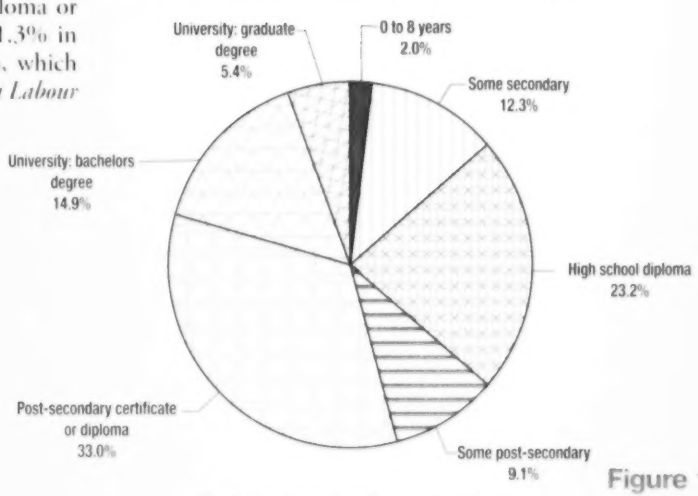
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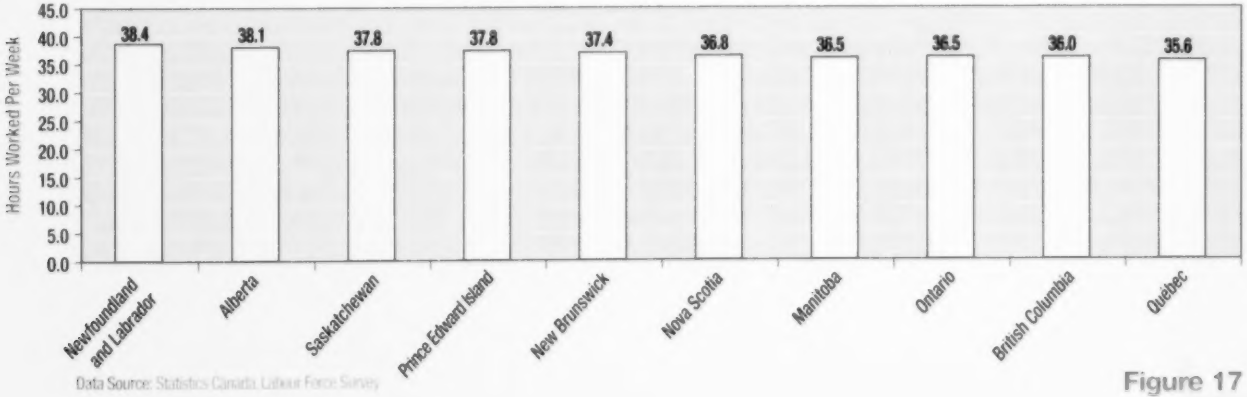


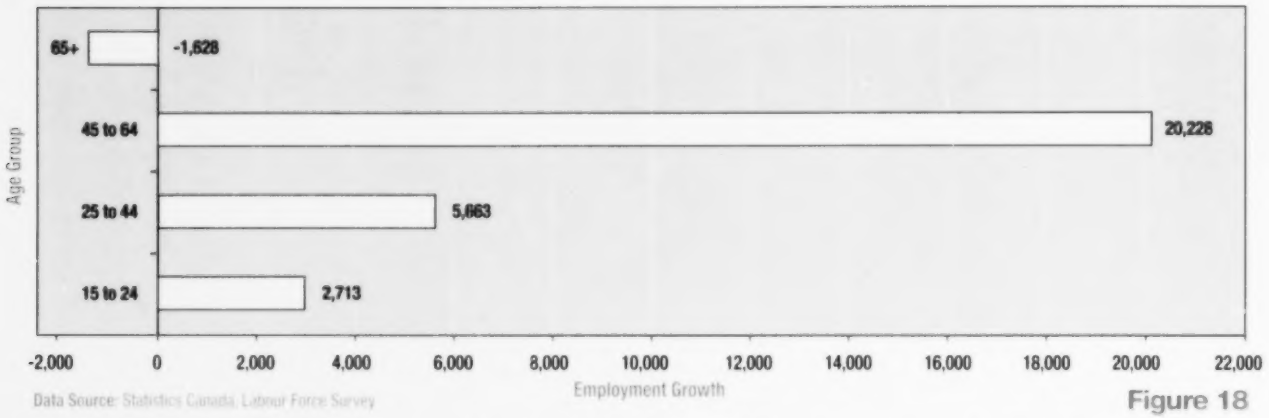
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 17

DEMOGRAPHICS

MORE OLDER WORKERS IN THE LABOUR FORCE

Alberta Change in Employment by Age Group, 2005



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 18

Albertans in the 45 - 64 age group experienced the greatest job growth. As a percentage, this age bracket represented 70.7% of Alberta's overall job growth. The older worker category (aged 45 - 64) had a net increase in employment of 20,228.

The next group with the largest employment increase of 5,663 was the 25 - 44 age group. The 15 - 24 age group rose by 2,713 in 2005. Negative job growth was experienced by the 65+ age group, which had a decrease in employment of 1,628 people. *(Figure 18 - Alberta Change in Employment by Age Group, 2005)*

In terms of employment rates, the 25 - 44 age group had the highest rate at 84.3%. The 45 - 64 age group and 15 - 24 age group rates were 77.9% and 65.5% respectively. *(Figure 19 - Alberta Employment Rates by Age Group, 2003 - 2005)*

Alberta has seen a consistent number of people retiring and declaring themselves "not in the labour market." This means that they are not working and are not actively looking for work. There were 480 Albertans in the labour force who retired in 2005. In the past five years, 2001 had the lowest number of retirees, at 428. 2003 had the largest number of retired people at 726.

Alberta Employment Rates by Age Group, 2003 - 2005

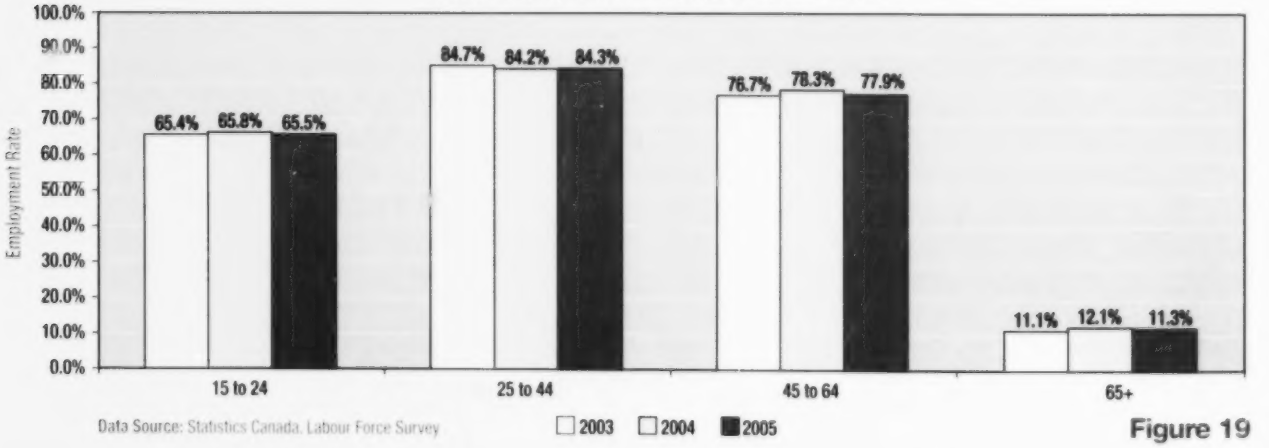


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Figure 19

ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

There are almost three complete years of statistics for the Aboriginal population living off-reserve in Alberta. Employment for the off-reserve Aboriginal population increased by 2,000 jobs from 57,600 in 2004 to 59,600 in 2005. The unemployment rate stood at 9.0%, 0.6 percentage points lower than in 2004.

The employment rate for Aboriginal people living off-reserve increased from 63.9% in 2004 to 64.2% in 2005. This was primarily due to a larger increase in the number of people employed relative to the increase in the working age population of Aboriginal people living off-reserve. The increase in the employment level may be attributed to people moving off-reserve to take advantage of greater employment opportunities. *(Figure 20 - Alberta Aboriginal People Employment Rates, 2003 - 2005)*

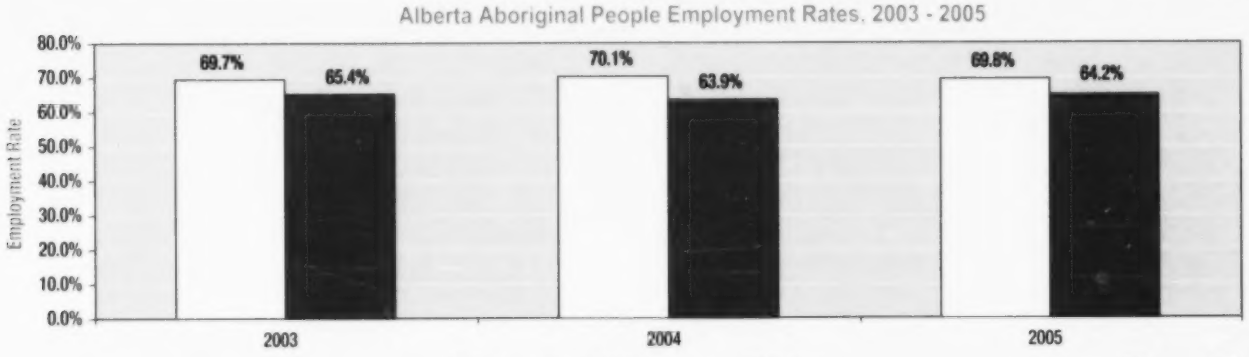

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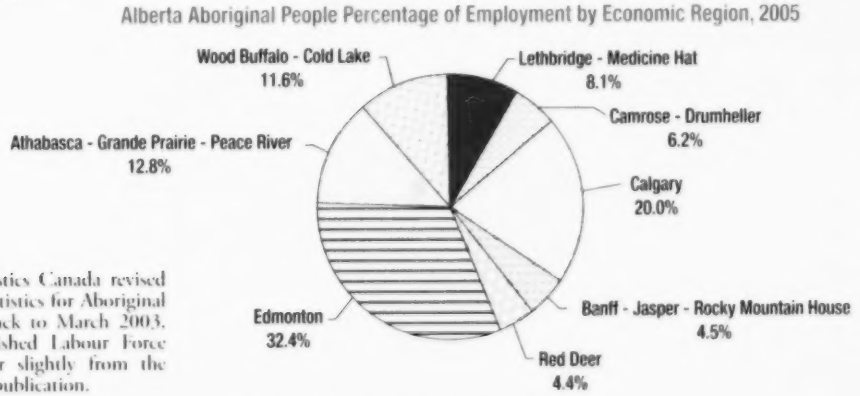
Figure 20

In 2005, there were 19,300 Aboriginal people employed in the Edmonton region and 11,900 in the Calgary region. There were 28,300 Aboriginal people living off-reserve employed in the rest of the province. Of the other six economic regions, Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River region reported the highest level of employment for Aboriginal people living off-reserve, at 7,600. *(Figure 21 - Alberta Aboriginal People Percentage of Employment by Economic Region, 2005)*

The industries that employed the largest number of Aboriginal people living off-reserve in 2005 were: Retail and Wholesale Trade, 9,400; Construction, 6,900; and Health Care and Social Assistance, 6,500.

For the monthly Aboriginal Labour Force Statistics packages, visit the website listed on the back cover of this publication.



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Note: In July 2005, Statistics Canada revised the Labour Force Survey statistics for Aboriginal people living off-reserve, back to March 2003. Therefore, previously published Labour Force Survey statistics may differ slightly from the revised figures listed in this publication.

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MORE OLDER WORKERS IN THE LABOUR FORCE

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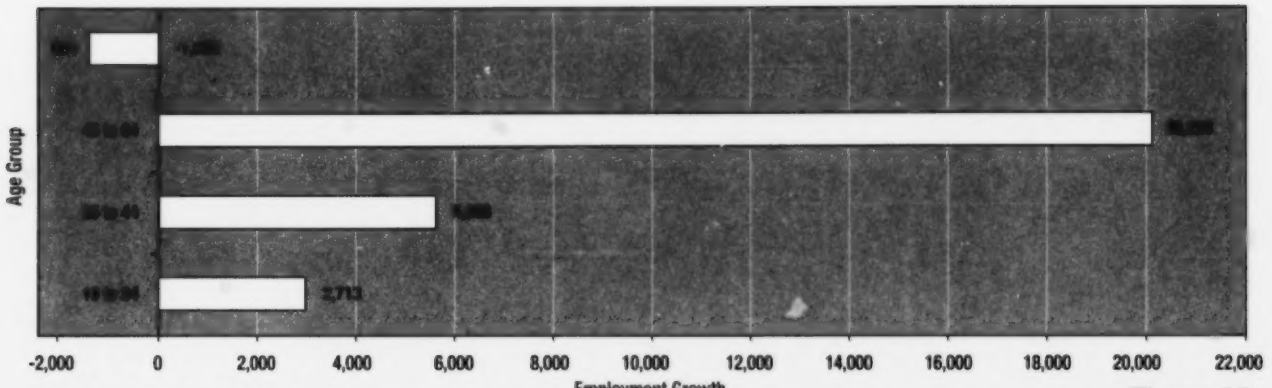

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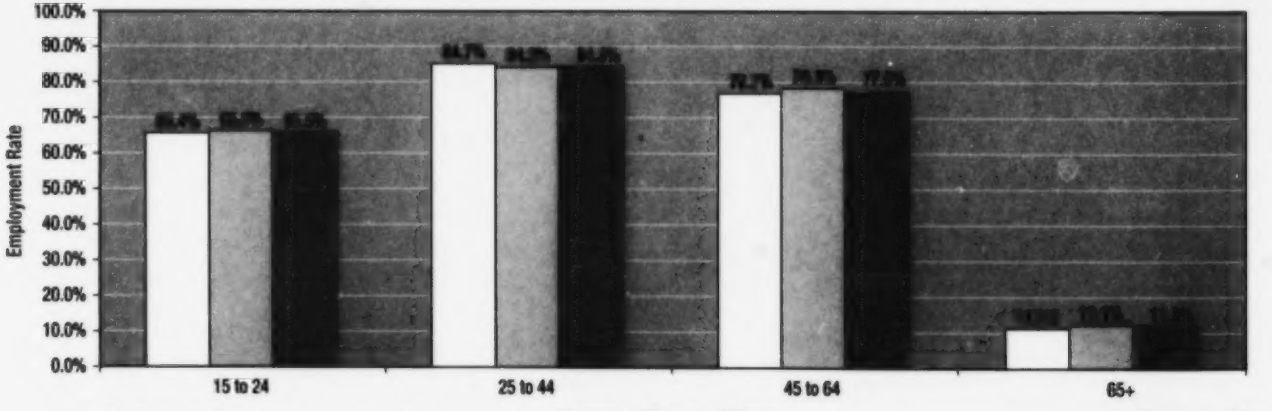

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REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT BREAKDOWN

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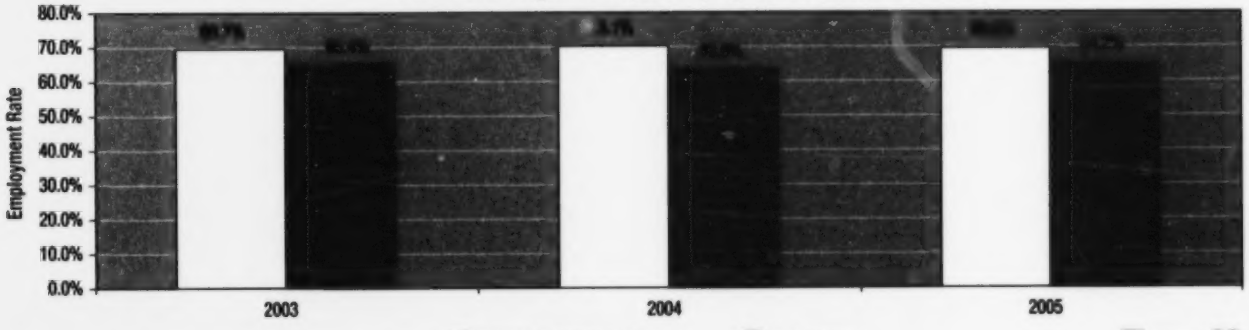

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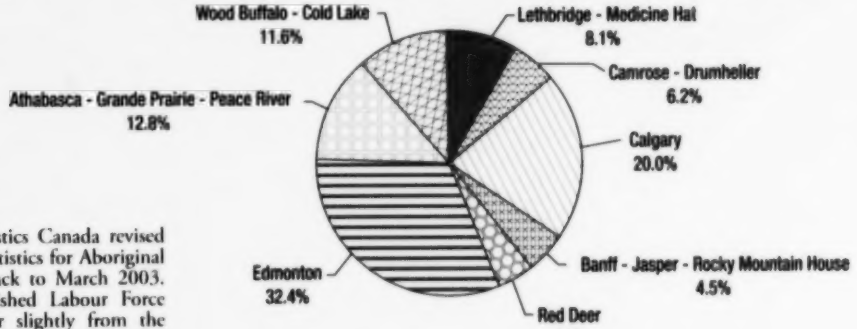

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Figure 21

2005 Annual Alberta Labour Market Review

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Labour Productivity in Alberta

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